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Declassified by ASD - 21/02/2022
Information removed for national
security and personal sensitivities

add the other 83.

~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~ SECTION 1 OF 3

FOR DIRECTOR

HEREWITH DRAFT

(NOTE THAT DDS RATHER THAN DAS MAY BE THE PROCUREMENT AUTH)

MINISTER. G.G.D. SCHOLES

PURPOSE/ISSUES. TO SEEK APPROVAL FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A CRAY VERY HIGH PERFORMANCE DATA PROCESSING COMPUTER, THE PROVISION OF APPROPRIATE SITE FACILITIES FOR IT, AND THE SUPPLY OF RELATED SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE DEFENCE SIGNALS DIRECTORATE.

RELATION TO EXISTING POLICY. RELATES TO CABINET DECISION NO. 5591 OF 29 MAY 1978 ON PROCEDURES FOR THE ACQUISITION OF ADP CAPABILITY AND TO PROCUREMENT PROPOSALS IN EXCESS OF \$10.000M.

LEGISLATION INVOLVED. NO.

URGENCY. CRITICAL/SIGNIFICANT DATES. A DECISION IS SOUGHT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO MEET PROJECT TIMESCALES WHICH CALL FOR INSTALLATION OF THE COMPUTER BY NOVEMBER 1985.

CONSULTATION: MINISTERS/DEPTS CONSULTED. THE PERMANENT HEADS' COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

AND CONSTRUCTION HAVE BEEN CONSULTED.

IS THERE AGREEMENT: YES.

COST	WORKS	PURCHASE	MAINTENANCE
COST THIS FY	NIL	NIL	NIL
YEAR 2	1.850M	NIL	0.300M (NIL)
YEAR 3	NIL	10.500M	0.500M (NIL)
(Year 4)			(0.500M)

WHEN AND WHERE IS THE DECISION TO BE ANNOUNCED. IF DEEMED NECESSARY
A PUBLIC STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE.

IS A DRAFT PRESS STATEMENT ATTACHED. NO. THE CONTENT OF A PUBLIC
STATEMENT WOULD BE ALONG THE LINES OF ATTACHMENT A.

HOW WIDELY IS THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO BE CIRCULATED. THE MINIMUM
NECESSARY, NOT EXCEEDING NORMAL CIRCULATION FOR A PUBLIC STATEMENT
BY MINISTER.

(2 - 4) NO/NONE

INTRODUCTION

DSD'S PRIMARY MISSION IS TO PRODUCE SIGNALS INTELLIGENCE (SIGINT)
FROM FOREIGN COMMUNICATIONS IN SATISFACTION OF AUSTRALIA'S DEFENCE
AND OTHER NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE REQUIREMENTS. THE MOST VALUABLE
SIGINT IS NORMALLY CARRIED BY ENCRYPTED COMMUNICATIONS WHICH MUST BE
SUBJECT TO CRYPTANALYSIS TO RECOVER THE PLAIN TEXT. THUS AN
EFFECTIVE CRYPTANALYTIC CAPABILITY, MEASURED AGAINST PRESENT AND
FUTURE TARGETED CODES AND CYPHERS IS VITAL IF DSD IS TO MEET ITS
SIGINT PRODUCTION RESPONSIBILITIES.

THE NATURE OF MODERN CRYPTOGRAPHIC TECHNIQUES IS SUCH THAT
EXTENSIVE USE OF POWERFUL COMPUTERS IS INCREASINGLY FUNDAMENTAL
TO A TIMELY AND EFFECTIVE CRYPTANALYTIC CAPABILITY. DSD'S EXISTING
CRYPTANALYTIC COMPUTATION SUPPORT IS PROVIDED BY THE CYBER 175

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COMPUTER INSTALLED IN 1977 AT AN INVESTMENT COST OF APPROXIMATELY
\$4M.

#8432
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